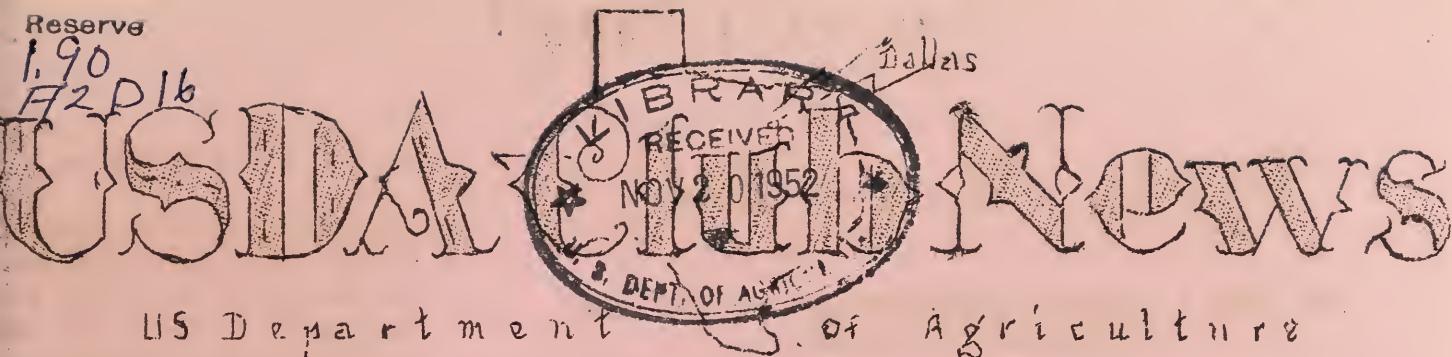


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Vol. IV - No. 4

APRIL 1952

DALLAS, TEXAS

It's A Texas Fact!

The old Texas breed is disappearing. We hate to admit it but we're getting soft. Time was when a Texan thought nothing of going thirty or forty miles to his mailbox but there's a Farmers Home Administration borrower living up near the Oklahoma border who has so little pride he has his mail routed to an Oklahoma address just because it saves him a pid-dling ten-mile trip. LAZY!

Gem

Life is made of volumes three,
The Past, the Present,
the Yet-to-be;
The Past is done and
laid away;
The Present is living
from day to day;
The third and last of
volumes three
Is hidden from sight--
God holds the key.

* * * * *

EVEN IF YOU ARE ON THE HIGH ROAD, YOU WILL GET RUN OVER IF YOU JUST SIT THERE!

Tulane Smith Named Member of the Month

For his services and contributions to the USDA Club and the Department of Agriculture, Tulane Smith, Farmers Home Administration employee, was the unanimous choice for the March "Member of the Month" award. His name was suggested by the Work of the Department Committee and confirmed by the USDA Club Board of Directors at their monthly meeting held at the YWCA April 16.

Mr. Smith--Tulane to his legion of friends-- is a native Texan, with a Texan drawl. He was born in Mineral Wells and attended the University of Texas where he received his LLB degree. He practiced law several years, served with the 90th (Texas) Division during WWI. He went in a 2nd looey and came out Company Commander.

(Page 3 please)

Shall We Endanger Our Retirement System?

The editor is indebted to Hon. Robert Ramspeck, Chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, for the factual data used herein. Credit also, to Mr. John Bolish, USDA Club President, for making it available to us.

We believe the facts presented here are of vital interest to each of you who are contributing to your civil service retirement fund. The present law contemplates a fully funded reserve system of retirement based upon sound actuarial principles. This means that when you reach retirement age your government guarantees you a fixed annuity for life. THIS GUARANTEE WILL NO LONGER

(Page 2, please)

Myths Versus Facts:

THE MYTH : Federal employees principally are political appointees.

THE FACT : In the continental United States on September 30, 1951, 93% of the positions in all agencies of the executive branch of the government were in the competitive service. The jobs are filled by competitive examination of all qualified applicants. OF

THE REMAINING 7 % NOT ALL ARE POLITICAL APPOINTEES Employees of several entire agencies are in this group, including those in the Atomic Energy Commission, TVA, and the FBI. These fill positions which require unusual qualifications or technical ability or in positions in out-of-the-way places, all of which make competitive examinations impractical. Therefore, political appointees comprise a very small minority of federal employees.

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SHALL WE ENDANGER OUR RETIREMENT SYSTEM? (From page 1)

BE AS CERTAIN if Senate bill # 995 becomes law. You are reminded that in the Economy Act of 1933 the only thing that Congress did NOT reduce were annuities being paid under the Civil Service Retirement System. Can additional benefits now be provided from the present fund? The Civil Service Commission feels they cannot---unless you want to risk the eventual destruction of the present retirement system. We invite your attention to the financial statement published on page 4. It shows what has happened to your fund in the past four years. The Commission feels it should be a danger signal to you---that you should stop, look, and study carefully before you favor increasing the present deficit in the retirement fund. It has increased one billion, eight hundred million dollars in four years. (See item 8). The TOTAL liabilities have increased three billion, seven hundred million dollars in four years. (See item 6).

The total due you (those still working) for services already rendered EXCEEDS the total assets of the fund. (See items 5 and 7). The liability to those now retired has increased one billion, two hundred million dollars in four years. During these four years the average annual increase in the deficit has been four hundred fifty million dollars. The Civil Service Commissioners sincerely feel that it is not wise to further burden the fund at this time. They believe that you may lose the best retirement system in the world if the deficit keeps growing.

(For additional see bottom of page 4)

---* NOTICE *---

USDA CLUB MEMBERS HOLDING POLIO INSURANCE POLICIES IN THE PACIFIC MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY AND WHO HAVE INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO RENEW OR KEEP SUCH POLICIES IN EFFECT ARE ADVISED THAT YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A NEW POLICY. The old one (which you now have) will still serve and be legally binding. Only those taking out this insurance as a new member will receive new policies. These will be delivered to you individually within the next ten days. Inquiries may be directed to Miss Fae Ray, Chairman Employee Welfare Committee, USDA Club, Room 318 Interurban Bldg. (Station 761).

* * * * *

Letter to the Editor:

Son, I reckon you were joking about that cucumber. But I'm warning you, you've got to be mighty careful what you joke about. For example, about 2 weeks ago I saw an ad pertaining to a luxurious Preston Hollow estate for sale for \$100,000. Well, I cut it out and just for a joke wrote one of my girl friends that if she would buy the place I'd marry her. About 3 days later she called me up, tears of joy pouring down her cheeks, and said her parents had purchased the place and when was the wedding coming off? Now she is a very sweet and attractive girl but I feel that I'm not quite ready to get married yet, so what I meant as a joke has caused me some grief and worry.

Yours truly,
Grady Huffman.

* * * * *
TCH, TCH! Grady we'll
page Dorothy Dix!

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The USDA CLUB NEWS is published the first of every month. Send news contributions to the editor at 2007 McKinney Ave., or call Ri-6951, ext. 2044.

EDITOR: JAMES L. HYLES.

* * * * *

While you remember, jot down your choice for the next "Member of the Month" award. Just the name and your reason for the choice on a postal card will do. Address V.S. Twaddell, Chairman, Work of the Department Committee, USDA, 2007 McKinney Avenue.

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We are advised that C. Hilary Moseley, PMA Commodity Office, has been appointed to the USDA Advisory Committee by Chairman Tulane Smith. Mr. Moseley replaces Mr. William W. Watson.

* * * * *

..D I D Y O U K N O W

That the wind damage to Texas soil during March was the greatest in ten years?....And that since the first of the year 3000 new oil wells have been completed---300 more than last year at this timeDr. A.W. Young, Texas Tech agronomist says it is up to PMA and other agencies to warn South Plains farmers to "forget cotton" for awhile in favor of soil-holding cover crops.....And did you know that last Saturday 134,692 Texas oil wells spouted over 3,100,000 barrels of crude oil?

.....T U L A N E S M I T H (From page 1)

He entered government service in 1934 as assistant state director with the old National Industrial Recovery Administration (NRA). In 1936 he transferred to the Region 12 (Amarillo) office of the Resettlement Administration. His next move was to Dallas as executive assistant to the Director of Region 8. When FSA became FHA in 1946 he became Administration Officer in the Texas State office and is now assistant to Director L.J. Cappleman.

Tulane has been active in the USDA Club since its inception, being a charter member when it was founded in 1940. He held the office of President in 1951, and is now Chairman of the Advisory Committee. He has that rare and happy faculty of being able to combine a youthful outlook with a mature approach to ever-day problems. This probably explains why he doesn't look his calendar age---which isn't to insinuate that he is approaching the state of a senile superannuated septuagenarian! Definitely, he isn't. With his likable personality his choice as Member of the Month will prove a highly popular one.

* * * * *

Quotations ...

"SECRETARY BRANNON HAS DONE WELL: HE IS NOT TO BLAME FOR SOME OF THE CONDITIONS WHICH HE INHERITED AS SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE." ---From a recent speech made by Senator Paul Douglas to a group (Citizens for the Hoover Report) in Washington, D. C.

* * * * *

Since Farmers Home Administration was established tenant farming has decreased from 42 % to 27 %. During that time tenants have purchased about 30 % of all the farms sold. This speaks well for the FHA Farm Ownership program as well as the other types of FHA loans which have helped farm tenants accumulate enough to embark as farm owners.

* * * * *

F O R S A L E : ---PLYWOOD BOAT, TRAILER OPTIONAL 12-foot Elgin. Excellent Condition. Refinished natural inside, R and W outside. It's a bargain! GEORGE HUGGINS, Ri-6951, Sta. 2051. See it at Irving Texas.

* * * * *

HE IS GREATEST WHO IS NEVER DEFEATED BY HIS OWN DEFEATS; HE IS HAPPIEST WHO NEVER ANTICIPATES THE TROUBLE HE MEETS.

STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY FUND
AS OF JUNE 30, 1947, and JUNE 30, 1951.

LIABILITIES

June 30, 1947

June 30, 1951

1. Liability to present and former employees for deduction from payroll, service-credit purchases, voluntary deposits, and accrued interest-----	\$1,571,744,233.29	\$2,550,616,394.06
2. Liability to beneficiaries or heirs of deceased, retired employees for unliquidated balances of their contributions, with interest-----	1,187,210.41	1,597,797.79
3. Liability to retired employees and survivor annuitants for payments accrued during June, payable July 1---	8,911,558.28	17,224,223.18
4. Liability for all future payments in respect to employee and survivor annuitants on the roll-----	887,098,688.00	2,016,051,658.00
5. Liability for prospective annuity benefits based on service already rendered by present and former employees, not yet retired, in excess of benefits to be provided by their contributions with interest-----	3,103,977,903.96	4,709,437,039.86
6. TOTAL LIABILITIES-----	\$5,572,919,593.94	\$9,294,927,112.89

ASSETS

7. Cash and investments in obligations
of the United States----- \$2,478,919,593.94 \$4,419,927,112.89

D E F I C I T

8. Excess of liabilities over assets--- \$3,094,000,000.00 \$4,875,000,000.00

We have presented the views held by the Civil Service Commission on pages 1 and 2. Their reasons are in the facts outlined above. They administer the fund. They oppose increasing annuity benefits to those no longer contributing to it. We feel you should give their views sober thought. To help you arrive at a conclusion most satisfactory to you we would like to add that the Bureau of the Budget favors the increase if it is made up by direct congressional appropriation. However, their plan envisions a partial breakdown of the Retirement Fund's independent status by linking it with the Social Security System. Also in favor of the increase is the National Federation of Federal Employees, which numbers many of you as members. N.F.F.E. would increase the benefits even if it means increasing the deficit in the fund. This old and honored organization feels the retired employee needs the aid desperately. N.F.F.E thinks the fund is in sufficient strength to bear the added burden if congress does not appropriate the money. They are unalterably opposed however, to any plan calling for merging the fund with any other federal retirement system.....The question calls for careful study from every angle.